

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A '

TAGS: OREP: (BENTSEN, LLOYD)

SUBJECT: ANDERSON COLUMN RE BENTSEN TRAVEL

REF: SYDNEY 675

QUOTED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS THE STATEMENT ISSUED
BY THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS OFFICE REGARDING JACK
ANDERSON'S COLUMN ON SENATOR BENTSEN'S TRAVEL TO
AUSTRALIA:

QUOTE: QUESTION: ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST THIS
MORNING, SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN HAS CHARGED THAT SECRETARY
KISSINGER OR SOMEONE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT LEAKED CABLES
TO COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON ABOUT A TRIP THE SENATOR MADE
TO THE FAR EAST IN 1973. WHAT'S THE STORY?

ANSWER: IT IS FALSE TO ALLEGE ANY IMPROPER RELEASE OF
DOCUMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE DOCUMENTS IN
QUESTION WERE RELEASED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS
OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT -- LEGISLATION ENACTED
BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

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-- ON OCTOBER 8, 1974, BOB OWENS OF COLUMNIST JACK

ANDERSON'S STAFF SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT, UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR
FOREIGN TRAVEL BY 250 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN 1973. THE
TRIP MENTIONED BY SENATOR BENTSEN WAS ONE OF THOSE ON
MR.OWENS' LIST, BY NAME, DATE AND PLACE OF VISIT.
AFTER REVIEW OF THE FILES TO INSURE PROTECTION OF
NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BEGAN -- IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT -- RELEASING DOCUMENTS RELATED
TO THIS TRAVEL, IN INCREMENTS, AS THE PAPERS WERE CLEARED
BY THE RELEVANT OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

-- THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE RELEASED THE RECORDS -- UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT -- WITHOUT EDITING AND
WITHOUT COMMENT. IT CANNOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY
FOR INFERENCES DRAWN OR IMPLICATIONS RAISED BY PUBLICA-
TION OF THE DOCUMENTS. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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